

Application Serial No. 09/837,329
Reply to Office Action Mailed 05/17/06

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 and 18 are presently active in this application. Claims 1-11, 16, 17, and 19-40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Action presented a rejection of Claims 31, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Spinar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0080816, Spinar), a rejection of Claims 23-30 and 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molnar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,694,154, Molnar) in view of Spinar, and a rejection of Claims 33, 35, and 36 over Spinar in view of Molnar.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the outstanding Action that Claims 12-15 and 18 are only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to this indication, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 23-40 to render the above-noted rejections applied thereto as being moot. In addition, Claims 12 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form so that Claim 12 includes all the limitations of intermediate Claim 32 and base Claim 31 while Claim 18 includes all the limitations of base Claim 34, there being no intermediate claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 12 and 18 are now allowable and that as Claims 13-15 all ultimately depend on Claim 12, Claims 13-15 should also be

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considered allowable. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in light of the above, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Attorney of Record

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

Customer Number

22850

Tel. # (703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703)413-2220
EHK:RFC/jmp

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